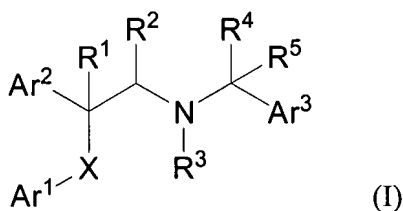


IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of structural formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is ~~selected from:~~

- (1) hydrogen;
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;~~
- (3) ~~halogen, and~~
- (4) ~~-OR^d;~~

R² is ~~-CH₃, selected from:~~

- (1) ~~hydrogen;~~
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, and~~
- (3) ~~aryl;~~

wherein each alkyl and aryl moiety -CH₃ is unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;

R³ is ~~selected from:~~

- (1) ~~hydrogen, and~~
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;~~

R⁴ is selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,
- (3) C₂₋₁₀alkenyl,
- (4) C₂₋₁₀alkynyl,
- (5) C₁₋₁₀alkyloxycarbonyl-, and
- (6) C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,
- (7) aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl-, and
- (8) heteroaryl-C₁₋₆alkyl-,

wherein each alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a and each aryl, heteroaryl, and

cycloalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo;

R⁵ is selected from:

- (1) hydrogen, and
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;~~

Ar¹ is phenyl, selected from:

- (1) ~~C₁₋₁₀alkyl,~~
- (2) ~~C₂₋₁₀alkenyl,~~
- (3) ~~C₂₋₁₀alkynyl,~~
- (4) ~~C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,~~
- (5) ~~cycloheteroalkyl,~~
- (6) ~~aryl, and~~
- (7) ~~heteroaryl,~~

wherein each ~~alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^a;~~

~~each aryl and heteroaryl moiety~~ phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b; and

~~each cycloalkyl and cycloheteroalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo;~~

Ar² is phenyl, selected from:

- (1) ~~OR^d,~~
- (2) ~~CO₂R^d,~~
- (3) ~~C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,~~
- (4) ~~cycloheteroalkyl,~~
- (5) ~~aryl, and~~
- (6) ~~heteroaryl,~~

wherein each ~~cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo; and each aryl and heteroaryl moiety~~ phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

Ar³ is phenyl, selected from:

- (1) ~~cycloalkyl,~~
- (2) ~~aryl, and~~
- (3) ~~heteroaryl,~~

wherein each ~~cycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl moiety~~ phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

X is -CH₂-; selected from:

- (1) ~~a bond,~~
(2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl,~~
(3) ~~oxygen,~~
(4) ~~sulfur, and~~
(5) ~~NR^e,~~
provided that when X is oxygen, sulfur, or NR^e, then R¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl
and Ar² is not OR^d;

each R^a is independently selected from:

- (1) -OR^d,
(2) -NR^cS(O)_mR^d,
(3) halogen,
(4) -SR^d,
(5) -S(O)_mR^d,
(6) -S(O)_mNR^cR^d,
(7) -NR^cR^d,
(8) -C(O)R^d,
(9) -CO₂R^d,
(10) -CN,
(11) -C(O)NR^cR^d,
(12) -NR^cC(O)R^d,
(13) -NR^cC(O)OR^d,
(14) -NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d,
(15) -CF₃,
(16) -OCF₃, and
(17) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

- (1) R^a,
(2) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,
(3) aryl,
(4) arylC₁₋₄alkyl,
(5) heteroaryl, and
(6) heteroarylC₁₋₄alkyl,

wherein aryl and heteroaryl moieties are unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three substituents independently selected from R^f;

R^c and R^d are independently selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
(2) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,

- (3) C₂₋₁₀ alkenyl,
- (4) cycloalkyl,
- (5) cycloalkyl-C₁₋₁₀alkyl-,
- (6) cycloheteroalkyl,
- (7) cycloheteroalkyl-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl-,
- (8) aryl,
- (9) heteroaryl,
- (10) aryl-C₁₋₁₀alkyl-, and
- (11) heteroaryl-C₁₋₁₀alkyl-, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom(s) to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^g,

each R^c and R^d are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^h;

R^e is selected from:

- (1) hydroxy,
- (2) methoxy-,
- (3) trifluoromethoxy-,
- (4) methylcarbonyloxy-,
- (5) halogen, and
- (6) cyano;

R^f is selected from:

- (1) halogen,
- (2) methyl,
- (3) cyano, and
- (4) amino;

each R^g is independently selected from

- (1) C₁₋₁₀alkyl, and
- (2) -C(O)Rⁱ;

each R^h is independently selected from:

- (1) halogen,
- (2) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,
- (3) -O-C₁₋₄alkyl,
- (4) -S-C₁₋₄alkyl,
- (5) -CN,
- (6) -NO₂,
- (7) -CF₃, and

(8) $-\text{OCF}_3$;

each R^i is independently selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C_{1-10} alkyl,
- (3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
- (4) cycloalkyl,
- (5) cycloalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (6) cycloheteroalkyl,
- (7) cycloheteroalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (8) aryl,
- (9) heteroaryl,
- (10) aryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-, and
- (11) heteroaryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-; and

m is selected from 1 and 2.

2. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

X is ~~selected from:~~

- (1) ~~a bond,~~
- (2) $-\text{CH}_2-[[,]]$
- (3) ~~oxygen, and~~
- (4) ~~sulfur,~~

~~provided that when X is oxygen, or sulfur, then R^1 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, and Ar^2 is not $-\text{OR}^d$;~~

each R^a is independently selected from:

- (1) $-\text{OR}^d$,
- (2) $-\text{NHS}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^d$,
- (3) halogen,
- (4) $-\text{SR}^d$,
- (5) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^d$
- (6) $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$,
- (7) $-\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$,
- (8) $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^d$,
- (9) $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^d$,
- (10) $-\text{CN}$,
- (11) $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$,
- (12) $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{R}^d$,
- (13) $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{OR}^d$,

- (14) -NHC(O)NR^cR^d,
- (15) -CF₃, and
- (16) -OCF₃;

each R^b is independently selected from:

- (1) R^a,
- (2) C₁₋₃alkyl,
- (3) phenyl, and
- (4) heteroaryl,

wherein aryl and heteroaryl moieties are unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from R^f;

each R^c is selected from hydrogen and methyl, and each R^d is selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C₁₋₆alkyl,
- (3) cycloalkyl,
- (4) cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃alkyl-,
- (5) cycloheteroalkyl,
- (6) cycloheteroalkyl-C₁₋₃ alkyl-,
- (7) phenyl,
- (8) pyridyl,
- (9) triazolyl,
- (10) pyrazolyl
- (11) phenyl-C₁₋₃alkyl-,
- (12) pyridyl-C₁₋₃alkyl-,
- (13) triazolyl-C₁₋₃alkyl-, and
- (14) pyrazolyl-C₁₋₃alkyl-,

wherein each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^h;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein:
R⁴ is selected from:

- (1) C₁₋₆alkyl,
- (2) C₁₋₅alkyloxycarbonyl-, and
- (3) C₃₋₆cycloalkyl,
- (4) aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl-, and

(5) heteroaryl-C₁₋₃alkyl-,

wherein each alkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two substituents independently selected from R^a and each aryl, heteroaryl and cycloalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy or oxo substituent;

~~Ar¹ is selected from:~~

- ~~(1) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,~~
- ~~(2) C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,~~
- ~~(3) cycloheteroalkyl,~~
- ~~(4) phenyl, and~~
- ~~(5) heteroaryl,~~

~~wherein each alkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^a,~~

~~each aryl and heteroaryl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b, and~~

~~each cycloalkyl and cycloheteroalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo;~~

~~Ar² is selected from: aryl and heteroaryl, wherein aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.~~

5. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 4, wherein: Ar³ is ~~cyclohexyl or~~ phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from halogen, cyano, -CH₃, -OCH₃, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -CO₂CH₃, -SCH₃, -S(O)CH₃, -S(O)₂CH₃, -C(O)N(CH₃)₂, phenyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, triazolyl, -NH-R^d wherein phenyl and heteroaryl moieties are unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from halogen, methyl, cyano and amino, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (original) The compound according to Claim 5, wherein: R² is methyl, X is -CH₂-, Ar¹ is 4-chlorophenyl, and Ar² is 3-cyanophenyl.

7. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 1 selected from:

- (1) 3-(1(S)(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenylpropyl)amino)propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (2) methyl ((3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2(S)-(3-cyanophenyl)-1(S)-methyl-propyl)-amino)(phenyl)acetate,

- (3) 3-(1(S)-1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl)amino)-propyl)benzonitrile,
- (4) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((2-methoxy-1-phenylethyl)amino)-propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (5) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (6) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (7) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (8) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (9) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (10) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (11) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (12) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2-fluoro-4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (13) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (14) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-(((1-hydroxycyclobutyl)-(3,5-difluorophenyl)methyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (15) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-(((1-hydroxycyclohexyl)-(3,5-difluorophenyl)methyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (16) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-ethyl-butyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (17) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-methoxymethyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (18) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-propyl)amino)propyl)-benzonitrile,
- (19) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,
- (20) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl)-2-acetylamino-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,

- (21) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-t-butyloxycarbonyl-aminoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(22) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-aminoethyl)amino)-propyl)benzonitrile,
(23) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-cyano-ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(24) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(25) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,
(26) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-methane-sulfonylethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. (currently amended) The compound according to Claim 1 selected from:

- (1) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(2) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((2-methyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(3) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-phenyl-2-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(4) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((2-(2-oxopyridin-1(2H)-yl)-1-phenyl-ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(5) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-biphenyl-4-yl-2-cyanoethylamino)-propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
(6) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-biphenyl-4-yl-2-cyano-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
(7) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(8) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(9) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(10) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(11) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
(12) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-ethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,

- (13) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (14) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,
- (15) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,
- (16) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methylphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (17) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (18) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (19) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (20) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methyl-propyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- ~~(21) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-cyclohexyl-2-cyanoethyl)amino)-propyl)benzonitrile,~~
- (21) (22) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methylthiophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (22) (23) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (23) (24) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (24) (25) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methylthiophenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (25) (26) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-biphenyl-3-yl-2-cyanoethyl)-amino)propyl)benzonitrile,
- (26) (27) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-dimethylaminocarbonylphenyl)-2-cyanoethyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (27) (28) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-dimethylaminocarbonylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (28) (29) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- (29) (30) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,

- ~~(30)~~ ~~(31)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(31)~~ ~~(32)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile,
- ~~(32)~~ ~~(33)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(33)~~ ~~(34)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(34)~~ ~~(35)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(35)~~ ~~(36)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(36)~~ ~~(37)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(37)~~ ~~(38)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(38)~~ ~~(39)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(39)~~ ~~(40)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(40)~~ ~~(41)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(41)~~ ~~(42)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(42)~~ ~~(43)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(43)~~ ~~(44)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methylthiophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(44)~~ ~~(45)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(45)~~ ~~(46)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methylthiophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(46)~~ ~~(47)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-phenylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
- ~~(47)~~ ~~(48)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),

~~(49) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-cyclohexyl-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)-amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(48) (50) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-pyrazol-3-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(49) (51) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-pyridin-4-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(50) (52) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-pyridin-3-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(51) (53) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4'-cyanobiphen-4-yl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(52) (54) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-pyrimidin-5-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(53) (55) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(2-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(54) (56) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4'-cyanobiphen-3-yl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(55) (57) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-pyridin-3-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(56) (58) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-pyrimidin-5-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(57) (59) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-pyridin-4-yl-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(58) (60) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(59) (61) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3'-cyanobiphen-3-yl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(60) (62) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methanesulfonylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(61) (63) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-methanesulfinylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

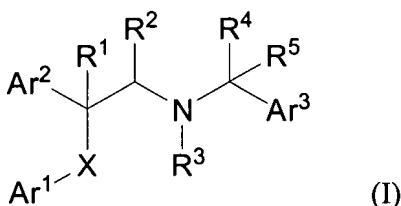
~~(62) (64) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methanesulfonylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(63) (65) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-methanesulfinylphenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(64) (66) 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl) amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),~~

~~(65)~~ ~~(67)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-1,2,5-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(66)~~ ~~(68)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(67)~~ ~~(69)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(68)~~ ~~(70)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-1,2,5-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(69)~~ ~~(71)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(70)~~ ~~(72)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(71)~~ ~~(73)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-pyrazol-3-ylamino)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino)propyl) benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(72)~~ ~~(74)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylamino)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(73)~~ ~~(75)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(4-(3-amino-1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(74)~~ ~~(76)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-pyrazol-3-ylamino)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(75)~~ ~~(77)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylamino)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
~~(76)~~ ~~(78)~~ 3-(1(S)-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2(S)-((1-(3-(pyridine-2-ylamino)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-methylpropyl)amino) propyl)benzonitrile (diastereomer A),
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

9. (currently amended) A compound of structural formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is ~~selected from:~~

- (1) hydrogen;
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄ alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents,~~

(3) ~~halogen, and~~

(4) ~~OR^d;~~

R² is -CH₃, ~~selected from:~~

(1) ~~hydrogen,~~

(2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, and~~

(3) ~~aryl,~~

wherein each alkyl and aryl -CH₃ moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3

R^e substituents;

R³ is ~~selected from:~~

(1) ~~hydrogen, and~~

(2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;~~

R⁴ is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,

(3) C₂₋₁₀alkenyl,

(4) C₂₋₁₀alkynyl,

(5) C₁₋₁₀alkyloxycarbonyl-, and

(6) C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,

wherein each alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a and each cycloalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three substituents independently selected from R^b;

R⁵ is ~~selected from:~~

(1) ~~hydrogen, and~~

(2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R^e substituents;~~

Ar¹ is phenyl, ~~selected from:~~

(1) ~~C₁₋₁₀alkyl,~~

(2) ~~C₂₋₁₀alkenyl,~~

(3) ~~C₂₋₁₀alkynyl,~~

(4) ~~C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,~~

(5) ~~cycloheteroalkyl,~~

(6) ~~aryl, and~~

(7) ~~heteroaryl,~~

wherein each alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^a,

each aryl and heteroaryl phenyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b; and

~~each cycloalkyl and cycloheteroalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo;~~

Ar² is phenyl, selected from:

- (1) ~~—OR^d,~~
- (2) ~~—CO₂R^d,~~
- (3) ~~—C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl,~~
- (4) ~~cycloheteroalkyl,~~
- (5) ~~aryl, and~~
- (6) ~~heteroaryl,~~

~~wherein each cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b and oxo; and each aryl and heteroaryl~~ phenyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

Ar³ is phenyl, selected from:

- (1) ~~aryl, and~~
- (2) ~~heteroaryl,~~

~~wherein each aryl and heteroaryl~~ phenyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

X is -CH₂-, selected from:

- (1) ~~a bond,~~
- (2) ~~C₁₋₄alkyl,~~
- (3) ~~oxygen,~~
- (4) ~~sulfur, and~~
- (5) ~~NR^e,~~

~~provided that when X is oxygen, sulfur, or NR^e, then R¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl and Ar² is not —OR^d;~~

each R^a is independently selected from:

- (1) -OR^d,
- (2) -NR^cS(O)_mR^d,
- (3) halogen,
- (4) -SR^d,
- (5) -S(O)_mR^d,
- (6) -S(O)_mNR^cR^d,
- (7) -NR^cR^d,
- (8) -C(O)R^d,
- (9) -CO₂R^d,
- (10) -CN,

- (11) $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{\text{c}}\text{R}^{\text{d}}$,
- (12) $-\text{NR}^{\text{c}}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{\text{d}}$,
- (13) $-\text{NR}^{\text{c}}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{\text{d}}$,
- (14) $-\text{NR}^{\text{c}}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{\text{c}}\text{R}^{\text{d}}$,
- (15) $-\text{CF}_3$,
- (16) $-\text{OCF}_3$, and
- (17) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^{b} is independently selected from:

- (1) R^{a} ,
- (2) C_{1-10} alkyl,
- (3) aryl,
- (4) aryl C_{1-4} alkyl,
- (5) heteroaryl, and
- (6) heteroaryl C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{c} and R^{d} are independently selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C_{1-10} alkyl,
- (3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
- (4) cycloalkyl,
- (5) cycloalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (6) cycloheteroalkyl,
- (7) cycloheteroalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (8) aryl,
- (9) heteroaryl,
- (10) aryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-, and
- (11) heteroaryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-, or

R^{c} and R^{d} together with the atom(s) to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N- R^{g} ,

each R^{c} and R^{d} are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^{h} ;

R^{e} is selected from:

- (1) hydroxy,
- (2) methoxy-,
- (3) trifluoromethoxy-,
- (4) methylcarbonyloxy-,
- (5) halogen, and

(6) cyano;

each R_g is independently selected from

- (1) C_{1-10} alkyl, and
- (2) $-C(O)R^i$;

each R^h is independently selected from:

- (1) halogen,
- (2) C_{1-10} alkyl,
- (3) $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
- (4) $-S-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
- (5) $-CN$,
- (6) $-NO_2$,
- (7) $-CF_3$, and
- (8) $-OCF_3$;

each R^i is independently selected from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C_{1-10} alkyl,
- (3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
- (4) cycloalkyl,
- (5) cycloalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (6) cycloheteroalkyl,
- (7) cycloheteroalkyl- C_{1-10} alkyl-,
- (8) aryl,
- (9) heteroaryl,
- (10) aryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-, and
- (11) heteroaryl- C_{1-10} alkyl-; and

m is selected from 1 and 2.

10. (original) A composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 11-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20. (previously presented) A method for preventing obesity in a person at risk therefore comprising administration to the person of about 0.001 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of a compound according to Claim 1.

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Claim 21. (new) A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment comprising administration of a non-toxic, therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.